

## The Dull Doll

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Once upon a time, in a cozy little house nestled in a quiet neighbourhood, lived a bright-eyed child named Rida. Rida had a most cherished possession, a porcelain doll with golden curls and a vibrant blue dress. It was a doll of exquisite beauty, her constant companion in adventures, laughter, and secrets shared under the warm sun.

One day, Rida's mother called out, "Rida, it's time to put away your toys and get ready for school."

With a heavy heart, Rida gently placed her beloved doll on a high shelf in her room, leaving it behind as she ventured into the world of books and homework. Days turned into weeks, and soon, her doll was forgotten, collecting dust in the corner of her room.

Years passed, and Rida grew into a fine young woman, no longer interested in the dolls and toys of her childhood. She decided it was time to clean out her room, a room filled with memories. As she dusted the shelves and sorted through old books, she noticed her porcelain doll, its once bright eyes now dulled and its dress faded.

With a sigh, she reached up and gently lifted the doll from the shelf. "You were once my dearest friend," she whispered to the doll, her voice filled with nostalgia. "But now, I'm all grown up."

The doll's eyes seemed to glisten with unspoken words, and Rida couldn't help but feel a pang of regret. She decided to place the doll in a box, thinking it might find a new home someday.

As Rida placed the doll in the box, she heard a soft, melodic voice coming from her grandmother, who was visiting that day.

"Child, do you remember the lullaby I used to sing to you when you were young?" her grandmother asked, a twinkle in her eye.

Rida nodded, a warm smile crossing her face. "Of course, Grandma, It was my favourite."

Her grandmother began to sing, her voice like a gentle breeze on a summer's day:

Hush now, my darling, close your eyes tight,  
Dreamland awaits you with stars shining bright.  
In the arms of your doll, you'll drift off to sleep,  
Where memories and dreams are yours to keep

Rida closed her eyes, transported back to her childhood, where her porcelain doll had been her comfort and confidante. She felt a deep connection to the doll, as if it held a piece of her heart.

That evening, as Rida lay in bed, she couldn't shake the feeling of nostalgia that had gripped her. She thought of her dull doll, stowed away in the attic, and a plan began to form in her mind.

The next morning, Rida climbed up to the attic and retrieved her long-forgotten doll. She wiped away the dust and carefully cradled it in her arms.

"Hello there, old friend," she whispered, a tear rolling down her cheek.

"I may have grown, but you'll always hold a special place in my heart."

With newfound determination, Rida decided to restore the doll to its former glory. She cleaned its porcelain face, carefully sewed a new dress, and brushed its golden curls until they shone like sunlight. The doll was no longer dull; it was a radiant reminder of the bond she shared with her childhood.

Rida continued to keep the doll in her room, proudly displayed on a shelf beside her bed. It had become a symbol of her past, a connection to the innocence and wonder of her childhood.

And sometimes, in the quiet of the night, when the world outside was still, Rida would softly sing the lullaby her grandmother had taught her, feeling the presence of her beloved doll, a faithful friend through the years:

Hush now, my darling, close your eyes tight,  
Dreamland awaits you with stars shining bright.  
In the arms of your doll, you'll drift off to sleep,  
Where memories and dreams are yours to keep

The dull doll had found its way back into Rida's heart, a cherished treasure of a time when all things were possible, and the bond between a child and her doll was unbreakable.

The story of the dull doll teaches us a valuable moral:

"Never underestimate the significance of cherished memories."

In our fast-paced lives, we often get caught up in the pursuit of new experiences, material possessions, and the demands of adulthood. We may neglect or discard the simple treasures from our past, like the innocent joys of childhood or the bonds we shared with loved ones.

The dull doll symbolizes the enduring power of memories. It reminds us that even the seemingly ordinary moments and connections from our past hold great value. These memories can bring us comfort, nostalgia, and a sense of identity. They remind us of who we once were and the people we loved.

So, the next time you come across an old toy, a faded photograph, or a long-forgotten keepsake, take a moment to cherish the memories they hold. Don't underestimate the significance of these simple treasures, for they are the threads that weave the fabric of our lives, connecting our past to our present and guiding us into the future.